

Neighborhood News



City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

November 2011

South Bellevue Safety & Livability Forum on Nov. 8

Everything you've wanted to know about community policing and neighborhood safety will be up for discussion at the South Bellevue Safety & Livability Forum Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Newport High School Commons, 4333 Factoria Blvd. SE.

Chief Linda Pillo and officers of the Bellevue Police Department will talk with residents and answer questions about personal safety, burglary, auto crimes, identity theft and neighborhood security. City staff from Transportation, Code Compliance and Neighborhood Outreach will be available to address related aspects of neighborhood livability.

Residents from all Bellevue neighborhoods are welcome to attend this interactive discussion of neighborhood safety, although specific emphasis will be placed on South Bellevue issues and interests. For more information, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or e-mail NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Are you ready for another LaNina winter?

Forecasters are predicting another LaNina winter in the Northwest – colder temperatures with more snow – which can make commuting difficult. A good way to keep informed of extreme weather conditions in Bellevue, including driving conditions and road closures, a snow priorities map, emergency tips and phone numbers, is to visit the city's website at www.bellevuewa.gov and click on the Extreme Weather Response button on the far right. You can also sign up for email alerts to get notified when the page is updated.



Be prepared: Before driving in snow or ice, it's a good idea to check conditions and snow routes and prepare your vehicle. Have warm clothes, water, a cell phone and other items in your car in case you get stuck. Give snowplows plenty of room to work and watch out for black ice on bridges, ramps and shady areas.

City crews follow a plan: Citywide and neighborhood priority routes are cleared first to accommodate fire, medical and police response, transit, schools buses and commuter traffic. After that, secondary streets are cleared. If snow

continues, plows may need to continue working on priority routes. View the priority ranking of streets citywide using Bellevue's snow response priorities map at

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/snow_response_priorities_map.pdf

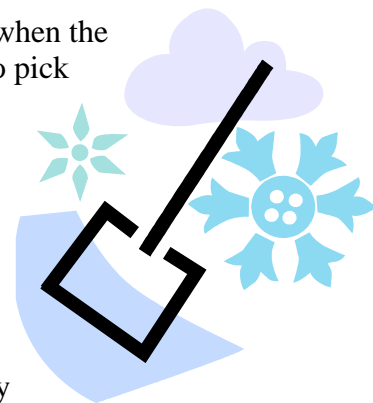
To check the condition of city streets in real time, see the city's network of intersection cameras and the online traffic map at <http://trafficmap.cityofbellevue.net>

Can your neighbors keep you safe – and warm?

It's a great feeling to know that your neighbor would come to your aid in an emergency – she would watch your kids, he would loan you a vehicle, etc. When the weather turns bad, that neighborly interaction becomes more important than ever.

For some residents, extreme weather changes everything. They may have no heat when the power goes off; they may have no water if their pipes break; they may be unable to pick up needed medications. Your neighbors may not have access to information about cold weather shelters, or they may have difficulty finding help due to illness, disability or language barriers. At times like this, neighborhood connections are vital.

Some Bellevue neighborhoods have plans for helping one another during bad weather. They may share rides, or loan out equipment like snow shovels. They may keep track of who has generators or gas water heaters and would be willing to let neighbors warm up. Some neighborhoods have a plan for checking on elderly residents, and some individuals take responsibility for ensuring the welfare of certain at-risk neighbors. One Crossroads area resident called it “Take Five” – take responsibility for checking on five neighbors. The phrase – and the approach -- have taken hold, and some agencies are now promoting it.



The key is *knowing* your neighbors – not just saying a quick hello at the mailbox, but knowing who would need help, or who would help you, when needs arise. One way to build connections is to create a neighborhood directory – a phone list that can be embellished with key information about your neighbors. Neighborhood Outreach has a tip sheet for helping neighborhoods create their own directories at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood_Directory_Tips.pdf. Or take a look at the list of ideas generated by local residents for strengthening neighborhood connections: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Neighborhoods/Discussion_Groups.pdf.

If you have a tip or idea for helping neighbors help each other – particularly in extreme weather conditions – share it with others by e-mailing NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

County sewer work to close SE 3rd Street

King County pipeline work will close a portion of SE 3rd Street to through traffic for approximately six weeks beginning in early November. Local access and emergency access will be maintained. Traffic on 102nd Avenue SE will be restricted to one way northbound by the pipeline work taking place between 102nd and Bellevue Way SE. For more information, contact the 24-hour hotline at 206-296-4081.

Garden d’Lights opens this month

More than half a million lights will transform the Bellevue Botanical Garden into a blossoming winter wonderland again this year, beginning Saturday, Nov. 26. Garden d’Lights, sponsored by the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, will burst into bloom every evening from 5 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31.

To visit the popular annual display:

- Ⓢ Purchase tickets in advance at the web site or at The Trillium gift shop. (Event admission is \$5 per person; children 10 and under are free.) The shop, which features gift items and holiday décor, is open from 5 to 9:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m.
- Ⓢ Get all event, parking and other details at <http://www.gardendlights.org>.



Inspired by plants found in Northwest gardens, hundreds of volunteers work year round to bundle strings of lights into three dimensional flowers, shrubs, and vines. In addition to artistic interpretation of plants, the display includes animal characters, including Charlotte the spider in her web near the Ground Cover Garden and the newest member of the menagerie in Yao Garden.

Anyone interested in learning the secrets of these flower creations can register for a class at www.bellevuebotanical.org or by calling 425-451-3755. All flowers created in classes are added to the Garden d'Lights display.

City considers change in Neighborhood Business (NB) zone

Meeting on Oct. 17, the City Council initiated a process to amend the Land Use Code to provide better support for uses in some of the City's neighborhood shopping centers. The City will look at the NB zone (Neighborhood Business) and assess whether additional uses should be allowed and whether some of the existing size limitations should be adjusted. Currently, for example, apparel stores are not allowed in the NB zone and retail uses are limited to 3,000 square feet. Adjusting some of these standards could help attract new tenants to vacant spaces at the Newport Hills Shopping Center and could improve the health and stability of other neighborhood business locations.

The Council directed staff to consider focusing the amendments on those neighborhood business areas greater than three acres in size, which includes Northtowne, Bel-East, and Newport Hills. Staff will be working with members of the three neighborhoods to review what changes to the Land Use Code might be appropriate. Draft concepts will also be reviewed with the Planning Commission on Nov. 16. A public hearing will be held once draft amendments have been prepared. The City Council will make the final decision on whether to adopt any amendments.

Position still open on regional housing board

Applications are still being accepted for a vacant position on the Citizen Advisory Board for ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing). The board consists of 12-15 community residents and housing professionals who work to evaluate funding proposals and increase awareness of housing issues on the Eastside. Typically meeting one Wednesday evening per month, board members contribute their understanding of housing and community issues, as well as certain specialized perspectives including real estate, housing development, planning, finance, assisting persons with low income or special needs, faith community, racial diversity, architecture and residents of affordable housing. More information about ARCH and the ARCH Citizen Advisory Board is on the website: www.archhousing.org To apply contact Arthur Sullivan at 425-861-3677 or asullivan@bellevuewa.gov

Culture takes the stage at Crossroads

For three days in November, Bellevue Crossroads Shopping Center will be a whirl of multicultural entertainment and educational events. The 21st Annual Cultural Crossroads will feature music, dance, exhibits and cuisines from around the world. An international bazaar will offer multicultural goods and gifts for sale. Sponsored by the Ethnic Heritage Council, the event is scheduled Nov. 4-6. Hours are Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.- 10 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Also in Crossroads this month – The Cultural Conversations group will gather to talk about “Flavors of Diversity” – how the concepts of food, meals, and dining are shaped by different cultures. This women's group meets regularly at Crossroads Community Center, and welcomes guests and newcomers. The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more information contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

November meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

11/1 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Discussion on non-monetary ways to support local arts groups, public art collection management, planning for the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

11/1 Downtown Transportation Plan Open House (4:30-6:30 with staff presentation at 5:00, City Hall Concourse) With light rail, Rapid Ride buses, a new floating bridge and changes on Interstate 405 affecting downtown travel, the city is looking for public input on improvements to support support downtown growth and mobility

11/1 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Special joint meeting with the Houghton Community Council http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

11/1 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Mid-biennium review of human services contracts

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

11/3 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Emergency management & response – Utilities approach http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

11/3 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30am, 1E-112) Attorney General Rob McKenna - Vulnerable Adults Initiatives update; committee reports. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

11/3 Public hearing on T-Mobile Conditional Use (7:00, Council Chambers) Opportunity to comment on application to locate a new 110-foot, square monopole with three-panel array and 160-square-foot equipment building at 1836 156th Ave. NE

11/7 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Update on paperless permitting, consent calendar, public hearing and possible action on East Link Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Transit Way Agreement with Sound Transit

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/8 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

11/8 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Mid-biennium review of human services contracts

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

11/10 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Downtown Transportation Plan Update and Transportation Facilities Plan Update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

11/10 Public hearing on Lakemont Chevron Rezone (7:00, Council Chambers) Opportunity to comment on City staff recommendation to allow expanded uses at the Chevron station at 5157 Lakemont Blvd. SE

11/11 Veterans Day – All City offices closed

11/14 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Issaquah School District Impact Fees, review of Phantom Lake, East Link MOU and Transit Way Agreement and possible action

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/15 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Mid-biennium review of human services contracts; final review of 2011-2012 Human Services Needs Update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

11/16 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Draft amendments to the Neighborhood Business zone; Eastgate/I-90 project briefing; continued review of the Shoreline Master Program

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

11/21 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent calendar, public hearing on Mid-biennial Budget

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

11/24 Thanksgiving Day – All City offices closed

11/25 Thanksgiving Friday holiday – City Hall closed, Mini City Hall open 10-6

11/28 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

Bridge closes again – Crews will close the westbound lanes of SR 520 at 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, and follow with the eastbound lanes at midnight. Included are all ramps between Montlake and I-405, except for the eastbound entrance from 108th Avenue N.E. The bridge will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday.

